

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed December 29, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

The specification has been amended for the sake of clarity and no new matter has been added.

Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-16, 19-20 and 22-24 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,343,324 ("Hubis") under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Moreover, Claims 5, 14, 17-18 and 21 stand rejected as obvious over Hubis in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0020254 ("Blumenau") under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 1 and 13

a. Both Claims 1 and 13 as currently amended contain limitations not found in the previous presentation of said claims.

As amended, Claim 1 recites:

A system comprising:
an interface to an IP network;
an interface to one or more target devices;
a processor coupled to the interfaces; and
a memory;
wherein the processor is configured
to maintain in the memory a mapping of users that are connected to the IP network to the one or more target devices,
to access the mapping according to login information corresponding to the users, the login information comprising a username and a corresponding password associated with each user, and
to enable access from the users to the one or more target devices according to the mapping; and
wherein communications between the users and the processor comprise NDMP communications.

As amended, Claim 13 recites:

A method comprising:
maintaining a mapping of users that are connected to an IP network to one or more target devices;

accessing the mapping according to login information corresponding to one or more users, the login information comprising a username and a corresponding password associated with each user;
enabling access from the one or more users to the one or more target devices according to the mapping; and
communicating with the users via NDMP communications.

Claim 1, as currently amended, contains a limitation not found in the previous presentation of said claim, namely: "communications between the users and the processor comprise NDMP communications." Claim 1, as currently amended, contains another limitation not found in the previous presentation of said claim, namely login information corresponding to users comprises: "a username and a corresponding password associated with each user."

Claim 13, as currently amended, contains a limitation not found in the previous presentation of said claim, namely: "communicating with the users via NDMP communications." Claim 13, as currently amended, contains another limitation not found in the previous presentation of said claim, namely login information corresponding to users comprises: "a username and a corresponding password associated with each user."

Thus, Claims 1 and 13 are drawn to a system for NDMP communications in which a mapping is accessed according to a user's login information, namely a username and password. The mapping is used to control access from users to target devices. Thus, access controls can be applied without a World Wide Name (WWN).

b. Claims 1 and 13 are Novel in Light of Hubis and Blumenau

Applicant respectfully submits that both Claims 1 and 13 contain two limitations not found in Hubis: 1. communications between processor and users comprise NDMP communications, and 2. accessing mapping according to login information that comprises a username and a corresponding password.

1. NDMP communications

The Examiner cites Hubis col. 6, lines 1-8 as teaching "wherein communications between the users and the processor comprise NDMP communications." Applicant respectfully points out, however, that Hubis col. 6, lines 1-8 teaches that the use of a Node Name generally refers to a WWN. Blumenau also teaches the use of a WWN (page 5, paragraph [0059]). In Hubis and Blumenau, the WWN is associated with the Fibre Channel protocol. Nothing in the use of Fibre Channel necessitates or suggests the use of NDMP. Applicant has reviewed Hubis and the cited portions of Blumenau for a reference to NDMP, but has not found such a

reference. If the Examiner disagrees, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner point out where a reference to NDMP management portocol can be found.

2. Accessing mapping

The Examiner cites Hubis col. 8, lines 43-58 as teaching “to access the mapping according to login information corresponding to the users, and to enable access from the users to the one or more target devices according to the mapping.” Applicant respectfully submits a different interpretation of Hubis col. 8, lines 43-58. In Hubis, “to access a logical volume,” the host computer must “login or otherwise identify its access request.” See Hubis, col. 8, lines 44-46. But it seems from Hubis that the host computer login is a WWN because a WWN is mentioned as “corresponding to the requesting host.” See Hubis, col. 8, lines 55-56. Furthermore, to access a target device, the device-unique WWN “is communicated in the form of a command packet.” See Hubis, col. 8, lines 56-58. This further suggests that Hubis teaches that the host computer accesses the target device using a WWN. Applicant respectfully submits that the mapping of the present invention, and hence access controls, are accessed using a username and password, not a WWN.

The Examiner also cites Blumenau page 5, paragraph [0059] to teach that “login information comprises a username and a corresponding password associated with the user.” The Examiner further cites Blumenau page 5, paragraph [0059] to teach “accessing the mapping according to login information corresponding to one or more users comprises associating a username and password with each user.” Applicant respectfully disagrees: Blumenau page 5, paragraph [0059] does not mention login information comprising a username and a password. Instead, Blumenau teaches using “the WWN of the host and the source ID of the host.”

A WWN is a unique identifier used for Fibre Channel devices and is typically assigned by the manufacturer of a device to that particular device. It is often a serial number “that the manufacturer registers with the appropriate standards committee.” See Hubis, col. 6, lines 34-45. One of the advantages of the current invention, however, is to provide access controls that are based on username and password for NDMP communications, not a WWN.

Applicant respectfully submits that use of a WWN or WWN and a source ID is not “login information corresponding to one or more users, the login information comprising a username and a corresponding password associated with each user” in an NDMP environment as contemplated by the instant invention because both the WWN and source ID appear to identify the host computer or source.

Thus, neither Hubis nor Blumenau, alone or in combination, teach or suggest “accessing the mapping according to login information . . . the login information comprising a username and a corresponding password associated with each user.” Consequently, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be made based upon these references.

CONCLUSION

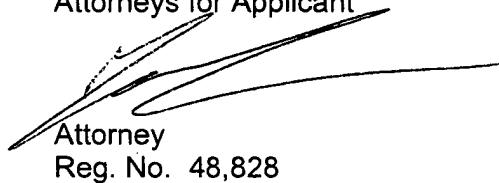
Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejections of Claims 1 and 13 and the respective defendant claims. Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-15, 19-20 and 22-24. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

An extension of two (2) months is requested and a Notification of Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 with the appropriate fee is enclosed herewith.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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